Monitoring the Ongoing River Valley Projects

3482. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have mooted the idea of establishing a monitoring system to study the physical progress of the ongoing river valley projects;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken till date to promote the sustainability of river valley project indicating Management of infrastructure, prevention of silting in storage capaicty and to enhance storage capacity on a need basis; and

(c) whether any National Conference on River valley project was recently organised by the Central Soil and Material Research Station, if so, the action taken on the recommendations made by this Conference?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. While reviewing the status of implemetation of irrigation projects during the First & Second State Irrigation Ministers' Conference held in 1975 & 1976, three tier monitoring of major & medium irrigation projects i.e. at Project, State and Central level was recommended. At central level monitoring of selected major irrigation projects is being carried out by the Central Water Commission since 1977 in a phased manner. All the on-going major & selected medium projects have been identified for monitoring by Central Water Commission from 1995-96 onwards.

(b) A number of steps have been initiated to promote the sustainability of river valley projects. These include emphasis on adequate operation and maintenance of projects, extension, renovation and modernisation, controlling of siltation of reservoirs through catchment area treatment and dam safety measures.

(c) Central Soil & Materials Research Station (CSMRS) has not conducted any National Conference on River Valley Projects However, a National level seminar on Geotechnical aspects and Construction Materials for River Valley Projects" was organised by CSMRS on 12th February, 1997. The purpose of this Seminar was essentially to promote and popularise the use of Hindi in technical work dealt with at the CSMRS.

Solving Almatti Dam Dispute

3483. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether technical committee have visited Bangalore and Hyderbad during November, 1996 to. revejw claims of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in regard to Almatti Dam;

(b) if so, the details of their report in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken so far to resolve the controversy between the two States?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The Union Government has not appointed any Technical Committee.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Desilting of Rivers in Assam

3484. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any requests have been made to Government to draw a special plan for desilting of rivers in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.